



*"To ensure to the residents of Minnesota
quality social work services"*



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LICENSING assures employers and clients that licensed social workers

- are **QUALIFIED** and meet degree, continuing education, and supervision requirements
- have a **PROFESSIONAL** identity and credibility
- meet **ETHICAL** standards and have a criminal background check
- are **ACCOUNTABLE**, and their clients have access to the Board's compliance process if services do not meet standards

If a person has a social work degree, a license is required before a person begins social work practice in Minnesota. Even if the job title is not "social worker" and even if an employer does not require licensure, the Board has legal authority to determine whether a person in a specific position is practicing social work, and can require licensure.

Social work practice is assessment, intervention, case management, client education, research, consultation, counseling, crisis intervention, referral, advocacy, development and administration of social service programs and policies, community organization, supervision of social workers, and teaching social work students. Clinical practice includes diagnosis and psychotherapy.

A social work license is not currently required for employees of city, county, and state agencies; private, nonprofit nontribal agencies with a primary service focus specific to an ethnic minority population; federally recognized tribes; students in internship programs required for a social work degree; and other licensed professionals.

Starting July 1, 2016, a social work license will be required for newly hired employees of city or state agencies, or employees of private, nonprofit nontribal agencies whose primary service focus addresses ethnic minority populations and the social worker is a member of the ethnic minority populations served.

**Protecting
The Public**

**Licensing
Social
Workers**

**Resolving
Complaints**